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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/688,353 | 10/17/2003 | Harmeet Bhugra | 5646-115 | 2287 |
| 20792 | 7590 | 05/01/2006 | EXAMINER | |
| MYERS BIGEL SIBLEY & SAJOVEC PO BOX 37428 RALEIGH, NC 27627 | | | PEUGH, BRIAN R | |
| | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | 2187 | |

DATE MAILED: 05/01/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. 10/688,353 | Applicant(s) BHUGRA ET AL. | |
| | Examiner Brian R. Peugh | Art Unit 2187 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 October 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 19-25 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>10/17/03; 3/5/04; 2/2/05</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

This Office Action is in response to applicant's communication with Examiner Portka on March 7, 2006, regarding an Election/Restriction Requirement. The applicant's remarks and amendment to the specification and/or claims were considered with the results that follow.

Claims 1-25 have been presented for examination in this application. In response to the phone conversation, claims 1-18 have been elected without traverse as per Grant Scott, Reg. NO. 36,925.

Information Disclosure Statement

The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on October 17, 2003, March 5, 2004, and February 2, 2005 are in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding claim 1, line 2, the phrase "...a search engine that is configured to support a plurality..." is not positively recited. A correction, such as replacing "...that is configured to support..." with –supporting— would remove this rejection.

Claim 9 recites the limitation "the multiple data cycles" in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. Multiple data cycles had not been previously recited.

Regarding claim 10, line 2, the phrase "...a search engine that is configured to support a plurality..." is not positively recited. A correction, such as replacing "...that is configured to support..." with –supporting— would remove this rejection.

Regarding claim 14, line 2, the phrase "...a search engine that is configured to support a plurality..." is not positively recited. A correction, such as replacing "...that is configured to support..." with –supporting— would remove this rejection.

Claim 14 recites the limitation "the first search key" in line 10. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. A first search key had not been previously recited. However, "a longest first search key" had been previously recited in line 5.

Regarding claim 15, line 2, the phrase "...a search engine that is configured to support a plurality..." is not positively recited. A correction, such as replacing "...that is configured to support..." with —supporting— would remove this rejection.

Regarding claim 17, lines 1-2, the phrase "...wherein the first replacement search key segment requires only one data cycle to load into said search engine" is not consistent with the parent claim. Parent claim 15, lines 6-7 recites "a first search key that requires multiple data cycles to load into said search engine...". It is unclear to the Examiner whether a single data cycle, or multiple data cycles, are required to load the first search key into the search engine.

Claims 2-8, 11-13, 16 and 18 are rejected as being dependent upon a previously rejected claim.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2-9, 11-13, and 16-18 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1, 10, 14, and 15 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The prior art corresponds to related CAM systems.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brian R. Peugh whose telephone number is (571) 272-4199. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 7:00am to 4:30pm. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Friday's from 7:00am to 4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Donald Sparks, can be reached on (571) 272-4201. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 571-272-2100.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

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For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. R. Peugh', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brian R. Peugh
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2187
April 27, 2006